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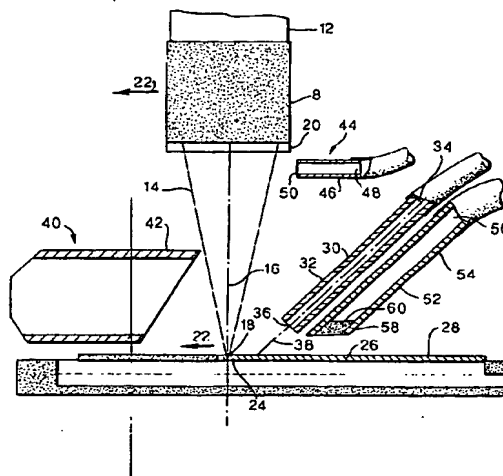
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(54) Title: LASER WELDING METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SUPPRESSING PLASMA



(57) Abstract: Laser welding apparatus (12), in which a laser beam (14) is impinged upon a component (2) to be welded at a laser beam impingement point (18), wherein plasma suppression means (30) is arranged to impinge a jet of gas on the component (2) at an angle to its surface, flowing towards the laser beam impingement point (18).

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